

**COMMUNITY AND HOME OPTIONS TO INSTITUTIONAL CARE FOR
THE ELDERLY AND DISABLED (CHOICE)**

Board Meeting Minutes
May 21, 2009 – 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Indiana Government Center South, Conference Room A
402 W. Washington St., Indianapolis, IN

CHOICE Board Members in Attendance: Prudence Twigg, Nick Petrone, John Holms, Dorian Maples, Blake Jackson, Senator Vaneta Becker, Noble Stallons, Dr. Timothy Janis

CHOICE Board Members Absent: Jean Macdonald, Pete Emigh, Senator Jean Breaux, Kay Crawford

Visitors in Attendance: Roxsandra Clemons-McFarthing, Melba Stallons, Paul Chase, Justine Currie, Ruth Ratzlaff, Becky Johnson, Ann Allen, Mary Ann Maroon, John Cardwell, Elizabeth Surgener, Megan Ornellas, Jade Luchauer, Celeste Stinson, Willie Poindexter

Call to Order: Chairperson Prudence Twigg called the meeting to order. There was a motion to approve the minutes from the March meeting. The motion was seconded and received unanimous approval from the Board.

Division of Aging Update: Director Megan Ornellas provided the Division update. She reported the number of people receiving home and community based services continues to increase. The Division has added over 1,300 clients to the Aged and Disabled Waiver this fiscal year and there is no longer a waitlist for services. There was discussion regarding CHOICE and Medicaid Waiver funding and clients served.

Director Ornellas reported that the Money Follows the Person program has kicked off. There are a few program participants so far and the agency expects to have the first person transitioned within the next few weeks. Additionally, Director Ornellas reported the CHOICE waitlist continues to decline and the number of people served by congregate meals and home delivered meals continues to increase.

Board member Jackson asked about CHOICE funding for the next fiscal year as well as current numbers of self-directed attendant care. Director Ornellas responded that more will be known once a budget is passed and the self-directed attendant care program continues to grow. Senator Becker stated a bill was passed that reauthorized the self-directed attendant care program. Chairperson Twigg asked for current numbers of the Adult Foster Care program and Director Ornellas said there are approximately 55 providers and 30 participants, which is up significantly from this period last year.

Old Business: Celeste Stinson updated the Board on the vacancy created by Glenda Russell who resigned because of her increased work schedule. Celeste asked the Board

to give her the name of anyone who may be interested in the open position and she will provide an application to the interested party.

Additionally, Celeste presented a handout on eligibility requirements for the Title III, SSBG and CHOICE funding sources that was requested by Senator Breaux at the previous meeting. Board member Holmes asked for a list of what constitutes an Activity of Daily Living and Celeste responded she would provide that at the next meeting. Celeste presented updated CHOICE waitlist numbers by each Area Agency on Aging. Senator Becker and Dr. Janis requested the Division include a column of the percentage of people served for the next meeting.

Public Comments: Richard Maples, a home health provider in Fort Wayne, spoke. He said in the interest of full disclosure, he is the spouse of CHOICE Board member Dorian Maples. He stated his concern that Area Agencies on Aging have waitlists yet they are returning unspent funds. He also expressed concern that there has not been a CHOICE rate increase in a long time. Director Ornellas responded to his concerns. She explained that each Area Agency on Aging has the ability to request a waiver to increase CHOICE rates and provided information on reverting and non-reverting funds.

Chairperson Twigg asked if there was anyone from an Area Agency on Aging in the audience who may speak to the issue. Ruth Ratzlaff, from Area 3 in Fort Wayne, spoke about the process from an Area Agency point of view. The Board thanked her for providing the information.

Adjournment: With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.